

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ANKARA 02870 131454Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

/061 W

----- 048133

R 131315Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3172

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

EUCOM GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 2870

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TU

SUBJ: POLITICAL REACTION TO STUDENT VIOLENCE

REF: ANKARA 2797

1. THERE HAS BEEN FURTHER POTITICAL AND POPULAR REACTION TO THE VIOLENT DEATH OF THREE STUDENTS APRIL 8 (REFTEL). THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE THREE STUDENTS KILLED WAS THE SON OF A SENATOR BROUGHT THE PROBLEM OF IDEOLOGICALLY-MOTIVATED STUDENT VIOLENCE MORE CLOSELY INTO FOCUS FOR THE TURKISH POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT AND EMOTIONS AND TENSIONS HAVE RUN HIGH.

2. PRIMIN DEMIREL, WHOSE GOVERNMENT HAS COME UNDER UNUSUALLY HEAVY FIRE FROM THE OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES AND PRESS, HAS MADE SEVERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS IN DEFENSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF CIVIL VIOLENCE. ON APRIL 9, AFTER LEAVING A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, HE SPOKE TO JOURNALISTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ANKARA 02870 131454Z

AND CHALLENGED THE OPPOSITION TO STATE WHERE AND WHEN THE

GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN NEGLIGENT IN COPING WITH THE STUDENT VIOLENCE. MILLIYET APRIL 10 RESPONDED WITH A FRONT PAGE LISTING OF 38 STUDENT DEATHS THAT HAVE ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF IDEOLOGICALLY-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE SINCE THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE A YEAR AGO. ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD MANAGED TO ARREST PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR ONLYFOUR OF THOSE DEATHS. LATER THE SAME DAY IN A 2 1/2 HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO THIS ISSUE, (SEPTELS REPORT ON OTHER TOPICS COVERED) DEMIREL VEHEMENTLY DENIED MILLIYET'S ALLEGATIONS. DEMIREL CLAIMED THAT ONE OF THE DEATHS FOR " IDEOLOGICAL REASONS" WAS THE RESULT OF AN ALCOHOLIC COMA; ANOTHER HAD NO IDEOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIP AND AN ARREST HAD BEEN MADE;ANOTHER HAD DIED AS A RESULT OF AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT WITH A POLICE CAR. HE ALSO SAID THAT IN 15 OTHER CASES ARRESTS HAD BEEN MADE AND IN TWO OTHERS, THE CULPRITS WERE KNOWN BUT HAD NOT YET BEEN CAUGHT. DEMIREL ALSO SAID THAT THE FACT THAT THE POLICE COULD NOT FIND THE MURDERERS IN EVERY INSTANCE DID NOT INDICATE A POLITICAL BIAS. HE POINTED OUT THAT UNRESOLVED MURDERS OCCUR IN EVERY SOCIETY. MILLIYET APRIL 11 PRESENTED DEMIREL'S RESPONSE ON THE FRONT PAGE WITHOUT COMMENT. CUMHURIYET, HOWEVER, DERISIVELY HEADLINED ITS STORY, "DEMIREL SAYS THAT ALL OF THE MURDERS WERE NOT IDEOLOGICAL, A PORTION OF THEM WERE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS."

3. SPECIFIC POLITICAL REACTION TO THE SUTDENT DEATHS INCLUDES:

A. THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTINGENT SENATORS CALLED FOR JUSTICE PARTY (JP) AND REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) COOPERATION TO RESOLVE THE POLITICAL DEADLOCK IN THE COUNTRY. THIS SENTIMENT HAS ALSO BEEN EXPRESSED BY A GROUP OF ANKARA UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS WHO WILL MEET EARLY THIS WEEK WITH PRES. KORUTURK, PRIMIN DEMIREL AND OPPOSITION LEADER, ECEVIT.

B. TURKISH GENERAL STAFF CHIEF SANCAR, RETURNING APRIL 11 FROM A CENTO MEETING IN LONDON EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT THESE LATEST INCIDENTS DID NOT BODE WELL FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT DURING THIS PERIOD WHEN NATIONAL UNITY IS NECESSARY, HE FINDS IT VERY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ANKARA 02870 131454Z

WHY THE YOUTH OF THE COUNTRY ARE DIVIDED INTO HOSTILE CAMPS: "WHO IS ENCOURAGING AND INCITING THEM; WHO ARE THEY SERVING? IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT PREVENTIVE, LEGAL, VALID AND LEADING MEASURES BE TAKEN URGENTLY."

C. DEPUTY PRIMIN TURKES, WHO HAS BEEN THE LIGHTNING ROD WITHIN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT FOR OPPOSITION CRITICISM ON STUDENT VIOLENCE ISSUES, RESPONDED TO CRITICISM BY SAYING

THAT IF " NATIONALIST" STUDENTS ARE WITHDRAWN FROM THE CONFLICT ON THE CAMPUS, THERE WILL REMAIN NO OPPOSITION TO TOTAL COMMUNIST TAKEOVER.

D. THE RPP EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS DEVELOPED A PLAN OF ACTION DESIGNED TO MAKE POLITICAL CAPITAL OUT OF THE SITUATION. THE RPP PLAN CALLS FOR PARTY MEETINGS IN EACH PROVINCE APRIL 16 FOLLOWED BY A MEETING OF ALL PROVINCIAL CHAIRMEN WITH THE PARTY EXECUTIVE BOARD APRIL 17. THESE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A MASS RALLY FOR " FREEDOM AND PEACE" IN ANKARA APRIL 18. THE RPP HAS ALSO DECIDED TO PROPOSE A SENATE INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENTS, AND HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL FREQUENTLY INTERRUPT THE NORMAL AGENDA OF THENATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO MAKE SPEECHES ON THIS TOPIC. IT WILL ALSO, AT SOME STAGE, TEMPORARILY BOYCOTT MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IF " PROGRESS" IS NOT MADE. THERE ARE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE BOYCOTT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A MASS RESIGNATION OF RPP DEPUTIES.

4. COMMENT: THE APRIL 8 INCIDENTS WERE A SEVERE SHOCK TO A POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT WHICH HAD BECOME SOMEWHAT INURED TO THE ALMOST ROUTINE VIOLENCE THAT HAS OCCURRED ON TURKISH CAMPUSES DURING THE LAST YEAR. THE DEATH OF A SON OF SOMEONE THEY ALL KNOW MADE THE PROBLEM BRUTALLY REAL. IT COULD BE THAT IT HAS PROVIDED THE SHOCK NECESSARY TO PERSUADE THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STERN MEASURES TO BRING THE VIOLENCE UNDER CONTROL. THE MAIN VISIBLE EFFECT SO FAR, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN THE RESURGENCE OF POLITICAL INTEREST IN THE CIVIL DISORDERS PROBLEM AS A MAJOR ISSUE IN THE GOVERNMENT VS. OPPOSITION CONTEST.
MACOMBER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA02870
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760139-1106
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760469/aaaacguy.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ANKARA 2797
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL REACTION TO STUDENT VIOLENCE
TAGS: PINT, PINS, TU, GR, CY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006